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REVIEW OF MORTALITY DUE TO SUICIDE

IN THE N.W.T.

1975 TO 1986

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ABSTRACT

A review of mortality trends during the last 12 years indicates that deaths due to accidents, injuries, violence, suicide and homicide have been the predominant cause of death.

Statistics, with respect to suicide in the Northwest Territories (N.W.T.), has revealed some major areas of concern. Between the years 1975 and 1986, there are 145 suicides reported in the N.W.T. The number of suicides per year varied from lows of 7 in 1975 and 1976, to a high of 25 in 1978.

The most prevalent method of committing suicide was by firearms, which accounted for 61% of all reported cases. There were 77 persons of Inuit status who committed suicide between the years 1975 and 1986. Persons of Inuit status recorded the highest number of suicides among all ethnic groups, accounting for 50.3% of all suicides. The average rate of suicide observed for the period of this study was 26.4 per 100,000. This is approximately 10% per year over the national average. With such a small population in the N.W.T., this high rate of suicides is an issue that requires much attention.

INTRODUCTION

This paper was prepared by the Epidemiology Unit of the Department of HEalth to illustrate various aspects of suicides in the N.W.T. Included in this study, along with other information, are total numbers and breakdowns by region and community, as well as age group and sex distribution most affected by suicide. Comparison of the suicide rates observed in the N.W.T. to those in the rest of Canada was also made. By breaking down this information by region and community, continuing efforts can be made by health professionals and other professional field staff to focus on troubled areas in the N.W.T.

METHODS

In preparing this paper, death certificates from 1975 to 1986 were collected from the Department of Health and Department of Vital Statistics. These certificates were organized by the cause of death. All of the deaths that were reported as suicides were separated for this study. There were, however, some cases where the cause of death was undeterminable. These cases were taken to the Office of the Coroner for investigation of the autopsy reports. At the present time, these reports have not been sent to us.

Data was collected, it was analyzed according to year, age, sex, mode of death, community, region and by ethnic status. The results of this information were then tabulated and are presented in graphic form.

SUICIDE BY AGE/SEX

When breaking down the suicides by age and sex in the N.W.T. for the years 1975 to 1986, it was evident that two age groups had a relatively high suicide rate for both sexes. These two groups are comprised of 16 to 20 year olds and 21 to 25 year olds. The number of suicides amongst males in these age groups is 36 and 31 respectively. The number of suicides among females in the same age group is not as high as observed among males, at 6 and 5 respectively, but is the highest relative to other age groups among females.

These two age groups combined (16 to 20 year olds and 21 to 25 year olds) accounted for over half the suicides observed in the N.W.T. over the 12 year study period. The average number of suicides for all the age groups is 12 per year.

Although only two age groups have been highlighted, other age groups also have high numbers of suicides such as the 26 to 30 year old males where there were 18 suicides.

SUICIDES BY AGE/SEX
IN THE N.W.T. 1975 TO 1986

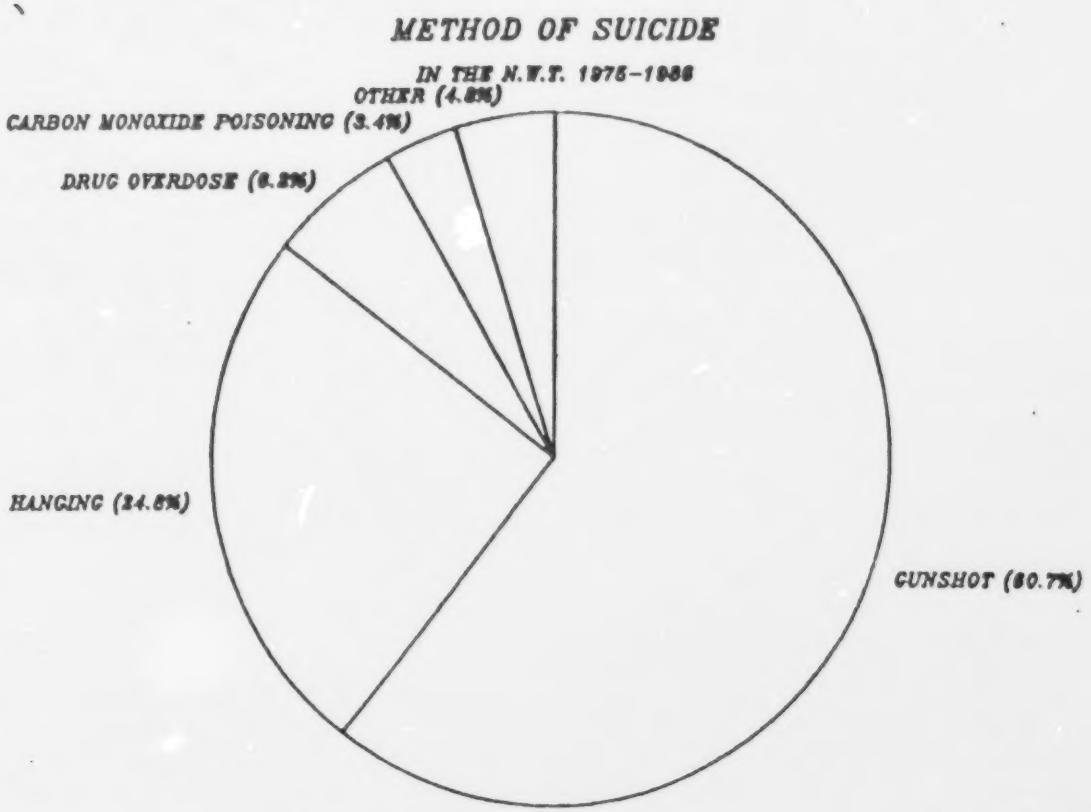
YEAR	TOTAL	AGE / SEX	0 - 10 M	0 - 10 F	11 - 15 M	11 - 15 F	16 - 20 M	16 - 20 F	21 - 25 M	21 - 25 F	26 - 30 M	26 - 30 F	31 - 35 M	31 - 35 F	36 - 40 M	36 - 40 F	41 - 50 M	41 - 50 F	51 - 60 M	51 - 60 F	61 - 70 M	61 - 70 F	71 —> M	71 —> F
1975	7		—		—		5	0	1	1	2	0	—		0	1	—		—		—		—	
1976	7		—		1	0	3	0	—		1	0	2	0	—		—		—		—		—	
1977	13		—		—		2	0	5	0	2	0	2	0	—		2	0	—		—		—	
1978	25		—		1	1	8	2	7	1	2	0	—		1	0	1	1	3	0	—		—	
1979	9		—		1	0	—		2	1	2	0	—		—		3	0	—		—		—	
1980	10		—		—		3	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	—		1	0	2	0	—		—	
1981	8		—		1	0	5	1	1	0	—		—		—		—		—		—		—	
1982	8		—		—		1	1	0	1	—		4	1	—		—		—		—		—	
1983	16		—		1	0	6	0	3	0	3	0	1	0	—		1	1	—		—		—	
1984	17		—		—		4	0	5	1	1	0	1	0	2	0	—		1	1	—		1	0
1985	10		1	0	—		2	1	1	0	3	0	—		1	0	—		—		1	0	—	
1986	18		—		—		3	1	4	0	1	0	—		2	0	2	1	—		1	0	—	
TOTALS	148		1	0	8	1	36	6	31	5	18	0	11	1	6	1	10	3	6	1	2	0	1	0
PERCENTAGES			(1 %)		(4 %)		(29 %)		(25 %)		(12 %)		(8 %)		(5 %)		(9 %)		(5 %)		(1 %)		(1 %)	

MODE OF DEATH

The mode of death is self-explanatory from the pie diagram.

The most commonly used method of suicide, during the time of this study in the N.W.T., was with firearms. Out of a total of 145 suicides, 88 (83 males and 5 females) were gun related. This is 61% of all suicides that were committed between 1975 and 1986.

Males appear to prefer suicide by gunshot or hanging. Females on the other hand chose gunshot, hanging, as well as overdose. Gunshot and hanging comprised 89% of all male suicides and 61% of all female suicides. Overdose was the method chosen by 28% of the female victims, but only by 3% of male victims.



Other includes - Methyl alcohol poisoning (2%) ; Stabbing (1%) ; Anti-freeze consumption (1%) ; and Unkown method of suicide (1%).

MODE OF SUICIDE
IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES 1975 - 1986

YEAR	GUN SHOT		HANGING		DRUG O.D.		CARBON MONOXIDE POISON		METHYL ALCOHOL POISON		STAB-BING		ALCOHOL+ ANTI-FREEZE		UN-KNOWN	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1975	4	0	1	0	0	2	-		-		-		-		-	
1976	4	0	1	0	-		-		1	0	1	0	-		-	
1977	9	0	-		1	0	1	0	2	0	-		-		-	
1978	16	3	4	1	-		0	1	-		-		-		-	
1979	5	0	2	1	-		1	0	-		-		-		-	
1980	8	0	2	0	-		-		-		-		-		-	
1981	3	0	4	1	-		-		-		-		-		-	
1982	5	0	-		0	3	-		-		-		-		-	
1983	8	0	5	0	-		1	0	-		0	1	-		1	0
1984	9	1	3	1	2	0	-		-		-		1	0	-	
1985	5	1	3	0	1	0	-		-		-		-		-	
1986	7	0	5	2	-		1	0	-		-		-		-	
TOTAL	83	5	30	6	4	5	4	1	3	0	1	1	1	0	1	0
	(61%)		(25%)		(6%)		(3%)		(2%)		(1%)		(1%)		(1%)	

SUICIDE METHODS EMPLOYED BY SEX
IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES (1975 - 1986)

METHOD	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
GUNSHOT	83 (65 %)	5 (28 %)	85 (61 %)
HANGING	30 (24 %)	6 (33 %)	36 (25 %)
DRUG OVERDOSE	4 (3 %)	5 (28 %)	9 (6 %)
CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING	4 (3 %)	1 (5.5%)	5 (3 %)
METHYL ALCOHOL POISONING	3 (2 %)	—	3 (2 %)
STABBING	1 (1 %)	1 (5.5%)	2 (1 %)
ANTI-FREEZE CONSUMPTION	1 (1 %)	—	1 (1 %)
UNKNOWN	1 (1 %)	—	1 (1 %)
TOTAL	127 (100%)	18 (100%)	145 (100%)

SUICIDE BY ETHNIC GROUP

Persons of Inuit status account for the majority of suicides in the N.W.T. Of the 145 suicides committed from 1975 through 1986, 77 were Inuit. This was 53% of all suicides in the N.W.T. during this time period.

Amongst the Inuit, the highest rate of suicide was observed in the 16 to 25 year old age group. There was a total of 48 suicides committed (40 males and 8 females) by Inuit people in this age group. This is an area of concern for the Inuit.

The second highest number of suicides came from the non-native group. Non-natives accounted for 40 suicides between 1975 and 1986. With the non-native group, however, there was not a particular age group that stands out like that observed among the Inuit. Instead, we observed a somewhat consistent spread of suicides across age groups. For example, there was an equal number of suicides by age group, eight, between the 21 and 25 year olds and the 41 to 50 year olds.

The remaining two ethnic groups, the Metis and Treaty Indians, both had 14 suicides in the study period. The majority of these suicide victims were between the ages of 16 and 30 years. This is quite similar to the Inuit group, but the total number of suicides is far less.

This breakdown by ethnic status shows that the native population in the N.W.T. has a higher incidence of suicide. The younger native people, especially males, appear to be the high risk group in the N.W.T.

The percentages of suicide do not represent ethnic distribution of population. Inuit and Indian more specifically are committing suicides at younger ages and this is a major concern.

SUICIDE BY ETHNIC GROUP - INUIT
IN THE N.W.T. 1978 TO 1986

YEAR	TOTAL NO.	AGE / SEX	0 - 15 M	0 - 15 F	16 - 20 M	16 - 20 F	21 - 25 M	21 - 25 F	26 - 30 M	26 - 30 F	31 - 35 M	31 - 35 F	36 - 40 M	36 - 40 F	41 - 50 M	41 - 50 F	51 --> M	51 --> F
1978	4		---		2	0	---		1	0	---		0	1	---		---	
1976	3		1	0	1	0	---		---		1	0	---		---		---	
1977	6		---		---		3	0	1	0	1	0	---		1	0	---	
1978	13		1	1	4	1	3	0	1	0	---		---		---		2	0
1979	5		1	0	---		2	1	---		---		---		1	0	---	
1980	5		---		2	0	1	0	1	0	---		---		---		1	0
1981	5		---		3	1	1	0	---		---		---		---		---	
1982	4		---		0	1	0	1	---		2	0	---		---		---	
1983	10		1	1	4	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	---		---		---	
1984	9		---		4	0	2	1	---		1	0	---		---		1	0
1985	3		---		1	1	---		1	0	---		---		---		---	
1986	10		---		2	1	3	0	1	0	---		2	0	1	0	---	
TOTAL	77		4	2	23	5	17	3	7	0	6	0	2	1	3	0	4	0

SUICIDE BY ETHNIC GROUP - NON-NATIVE
IN THE N.W.T. 1978 TO 1986

YEAR	TOTAL NO.	AGE / SEX	0 - 15 M	0 - 15 F	16 - 20 M	16 - 20 F	21 - 25 M	21 - 25 F	26 - 30 M	26 - 30 F	31 - 35 M	31 - 35 F	36 - 40 M	36 - 40 F	41 - 50 M	41 - 50 F	51 --> M	51 --> F
1978	1		---		---		1	0	---		---		---		---		---	
1976	2		---		---		---		1	0	1	0	---		---		---	
1977	4		---		2	0	1	0	---		---		---		1	0	---	
1978	10		---		1	1	3	1	---		---		1	0	1	1	1	0
1979	2		---		---		---		---		---		---		2	0	---	
1980	5		---		1	0	1	0	---		1	0	---		1	0	1	0
1981	0		---		---		---		---		---		---		---		---	
1982	2		---		---		---		---		1	1	---		---		---	
1983	4		---		2	0	---		2	0	---		---		---		---	
1984	4		---		---		1	0	---		---		1	0	---		1	1
1985	3		1	0	---		---		2	0	---		---		---		---	
1986	3		---		---		---		---		---		---		1	1	1	0
TOTAL	40		1	0	8	1	7	1	5	0	3	1	2	0	6	2	4	1

SUICIDE BY ETHNIC GROUP - TREATY INDIAN
IN THE N.W.T. 1978 TO 1986

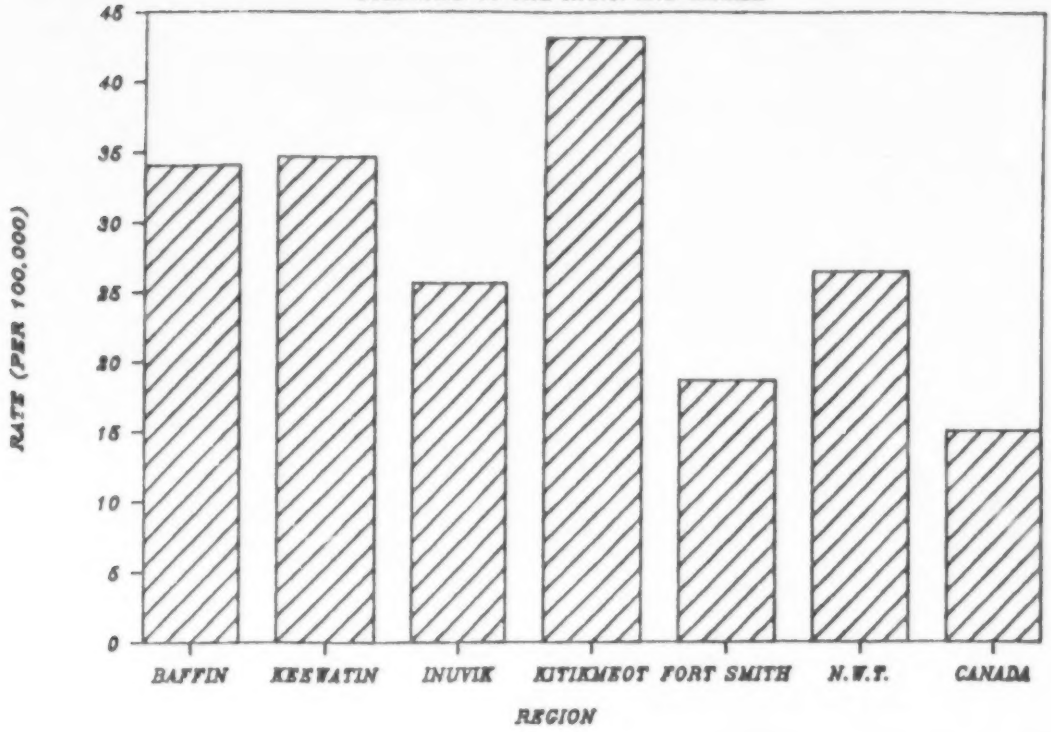
YEAR	TOTAL NO.	AGE / SEX	0 - 18 M	0 - 18 F	19 - 20 M	19 - 20 F	21 - 25 M	21 - 25 F	26 - 30 M	26 - 30 F	31 - 35 M	31 - 35 F	36 - 40 M	36 - 40 F	41 - 50 M	41 - 50 F	51 --> M	51 --> F
1978	0		---		---		---		---		---		---		---		---	
1976	2		---		2	0	---		---		---		---		---		---	
1977	3		---		---		1	0	1	0	1	0	---		---		---	
1978	1		---		---		---		1	0	---		---		---		---	
1979	0		---		---		---		---		---		---		---		---	
1980	0		---		---		---		---		---		---		---		---	
1981	1		---		---		---		---		---		---		---		---	
1982	2		---		1	0	---		---		1	0	---		---		---	
1983	0		---		---		---		---		---		---		---		---	
1984	2		---		---		---		1	0	---		1	0	---		---	
1985	3		---		---		1	0	---		---		1	0	---		1	0
1986	0		---		---		---		---		---		---		---		---	
TOTAL	14		-----		4	0	2	0	3	0	2	0	2	0	-----		1	0

SUICIDE BY ETHNIC GROUP - METIS
IN THE N.W.T. 1978 TO 1986

YEAR	TOTAL NO.	AGE / SEX	0 - 18 M	0 - 18 F	19 - 20 M	19 - 20 F	21 - 25 M	21 - 25 F	26 - 30 M	26 - 30 F	31 - 35 M	31 - 35 F	36 - 40 M	36 - 40 F	41 - 50 M	41 - 50 F	51 --> M	51 --> F
1978	2		---		---		0	1	1	0	---		---		---		---	
1976	0		---		---		---		---		---		---		---		---	
1977	0		---		---		---		---		---		---		---		---	
1978	1		---		---		1	0	---		---		---		---		---	
1979	2		---		---		---		2	0	---		---		---		---	
1980	0		---		---		---		---		---		---		---		---	
1981	2		1	0	1	0	---		---		---		---		---		---	
1982	0		---		---		---		---		---		---		---		---	
1983	2		---		---		1	0	---		---		---		1	0	---	
1984	2		---		---		2	0	---		---		---		---		---	
1985	1		---		1	0	---		---		---		---		---		---	
1986	2		---		1	0	1	0	---		---		---		---		---	
TOTAL	14		1	0	3	0	5	1	3	0	-----		-----		1	0	-----	

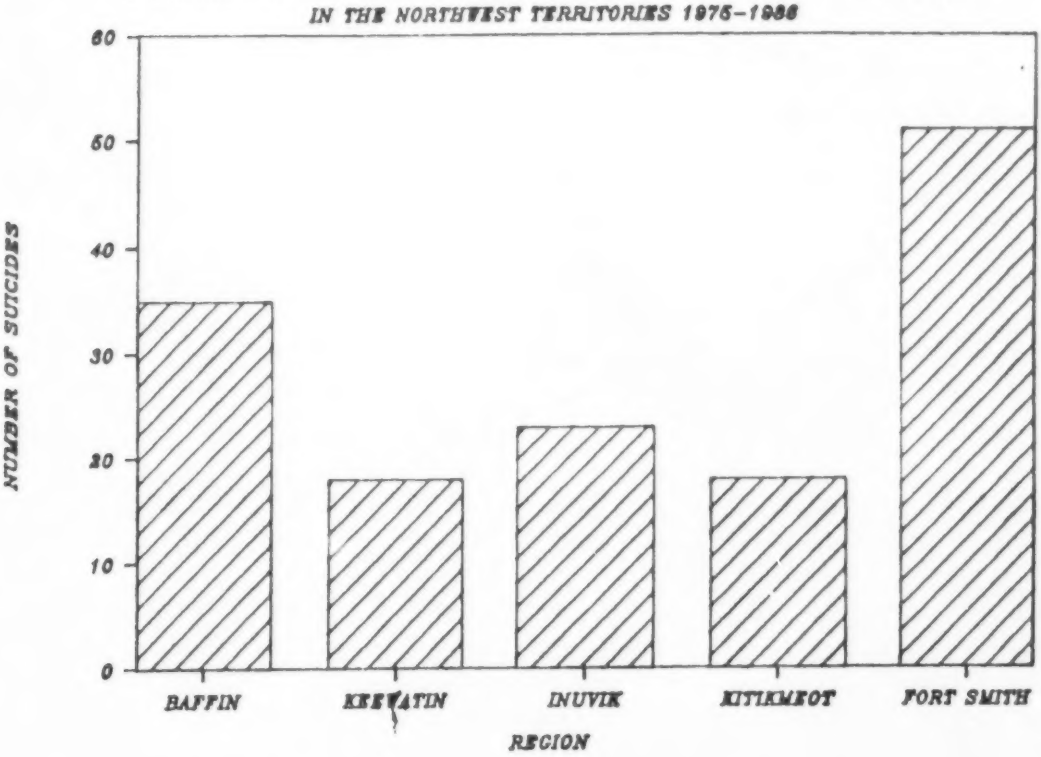
RATE OF SUICIDE BY REGION

COMPARED TO THE N.W.T. AND CANADA



TOTAL NUMBER OF SUICIDES BY REGION

IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES 1976-1986



RATES OF SUICIDES BY REGION
IN THE N.W.T. [1975 - 1986]

REGION	POPULATION [AS OF 1981]	NO. OF SUICIDES [1975 - 1986]	AVERAGE RATES *
BAFFIN	8300	34	34.1/100,000
KEEWATIN	4327	18	34.7/100,000
INUVIK	7485	23	25.7/100,000
KITIKMEOT	3285	17	43.2/100,000
FORT SMITH	22344	50	18.7/100,000

* THESE ARE THE AVERAGE RATES (PER YEAR) FOR THE YEARS 1975 TO 1986

SUICIDE BY REGION

The regional breakdown of suicides in the N.W.T. shows a number of similarities which include high rates among specific age and sex groups.

In most of the regions the observed high risk group was the 16 to 30 year olds. In this group, the majority of suicides were committed by males. For example, in the Fort Smith Region, the 21 to 25 year old age group had a total fo 13 suicides (11 males and 2 females) in 12 years (1975 to 1986). Another area of concern is the Baffin Region, in which the 16 to 20 year old age group recorded 17 suicides in this 12 year period.

This review showed a very small number of suicides among females. For example, the Keewatin Region recorded 18 suicides for the study period and not one of the victims was female. The Kitikmeot Region had 18 suicides and only one was female. This is a wide variation in the number of male and female suicides.

The rates of suicide for all the regions in the N.W.T. are well over the Canadian national average, which is about 15 per 100,000. For example, the Kitikmeot Region has a rate of 43.2, the Keewatin and Baffin Regions' rates are 34.1 and 34.7 respectively, and the Inuvik Region has a rate of 25.7. All of these regions have small populations, yet we observe a suicide rate sometimes twice or three times higher than the national average. The rates do show that there is an abnormally high rate of suicide in these regions. The Fort Smith Region has a rate of 18.7, which is much closer to the national average. This region also has a larger population which may account for the difference in rates.

The average number of suicides per year, during the years 1975 to 1986 and by region, were as follows:

Keewatin	-	1.5
Kitikmeot	-	1.5
Inuvik	-	1.9
Baffin	-	2.9
Fort Smith	-	4.3

The average number of suicides for the N.W.T. as a whole was 12.1 suicides per year.

SUICIDE BY REGION - FORT SMITH
IN THE N.W.T. 1975 - 1986

YEAR	NUMBER OF SUICIDES	AGE	0 - 15		16 - 20		21 - 25		26 - 30		31 - 35		36 - 40		41 - 50		51 --->	
		SEX	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1975	3		--		--		1	1	1	0	--		--		--		--	
1976	2		--		1	0	--		--		1	0	--		--		--	
1977	4		--		2	0	--		1	0	--		--		1	0	--	
1978	11		--		0	1	4	1	1	0	--		1	0	1	1	1	0
1979	4		--		--		--		2	0	--		--		2	0	--	
1980	8		--		1	0	1	0	--		1	0	--		1	0	1	0
1981	3		1	0	2	0	--		--		--		--		--		--	
1982	1		--		--		--		--		0	1	--		--		--	
1983	2		--		--		--		1	0	--		--		1	0	--	
1984	8		--		--		3	0	1	0	--		2	0	--		1	1
1985	6		1	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	--		1	0	--		--	
1986	2		--		1	0	1	0	--		--		--		--		--	
TOTALS	51		1	0	8	1	11	2	9	0	2	1	4	0	6	1	3	1

SUICIDE BY REGION - BAFFIN
IN THE N.W.T. 1975 - 1986

YEAR	NUMBER OF SUICIDES	AGE	0 - 15		16 - 20		21 - 25		26 - 30		31 - 35		36 - 40		41 - 50		51 --->	
		SEX	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1975	0		--		--		--		--		--		--		--		--	
1976	0		--		--		--		--		--		--		--		--	
1977	2		--		--		1	0	--		1	0	--		--		--	
1978	7		--		4	1	1	0	1	0	--		--		--		--	
1979	3		--		--		1	1	--		--		--		1	0	--	
1980	0		--		--		--		--		--		--		--		--	
1981	5		--		3	1	1	0	--		--		--		--		--	
1982	3		--		0	1	--		--		2	0	--		--		--	
1983	1		--		1	0	--		--		--		--		--		--	
1984	5		--		2	0	1	1	--		1	0	--		--		--	
1985	2		--		1	1	--		--		--		--		--		--	
1986	7		--		1	1	2	0	1	0	--		--		1	1	--	
TOTALS	35		----		12	5	7	2	2	0	4	0	----		2	1	----	

SUICIDE BY REGION - INUVIK
IN THE N.W.T. 1978 - 1986

YEAR	NUMBER OF SUICIDES	AGE SEX	0 - 15 M	0 - 15 F	16 - 20 M	16 - 20 F	21 - 25 M	21 - 25 F	26 - 30 M	26 - 30 F	31 - 35 M	31 - 35 F	36 - 40 M	36 - 40 F	41 - 50 M	41 - 50 F	51 ----> M	51 ----> F
1978	1		--		--		--		--		--		0	1	--		--	
1976	1		--		1	0	--		--		--		--		--		--	
1977	4		--		--		2	0	1	0	1	0	--		--		--	
1978	1		--		1	0	--		--		--		--		--		--	
1979	0		--		--		--		--		--		--		--		--	
1980	0		--		--		--		--		--		--		--		--	
1981	0		--		--		--		--		--		--		--		--	
1982	4		--		1	0	0	1	--		2	0	--		--		--	
1983	9		1	0	4	0	2	0	1	0	--		--		0	1	--	
1984	1		--		--		--		--		--		--		--		1	0
1985	1		--		--		--		--		--		--		--		1	0
1986	1		--		--		--		--		--		1	0	--		--	
TOTALS	23		1	0	7	0	4	1	2	0	3	0	1	1	0	1	2	0

SUICIDE BY REGION - KITIKMEOT
IN THE N.W.T. 1978 - 1986

YEAR	NUMBER OF SUICIDES	AGE SEX	0 - 15 M	0 - 15 F	16 - 20 M	16 - 20 F	21 - 25 M	21 - 25 F	26 - 30 M	26 - 30 F	31 - 35 M	31 - 35 F	36 - 40 M	36 - 40 F	41 - 50 M	41 - 50 F	51 ----> M	51 ----> F
1978	3		--		2	0	--		1	0	--		--		--		--	
1976	3		--		1	0	--		1	0	1	0	--		--		--	
1977	1		--		--		--		--		--		--		1	0	--	
1978	2		0	1	--		1	0	--		--		--		--		--	
1979	2		1	0	--		1	0	--		--		--		--		--	
1980	2		--		1	0	--		--		--		--		--		1	0
1981	0		--		--		--		--		--		--		--		--	
1982	0		--		--		--		--		--		--		--		--	
1983	0		--		--		--		--		--		--		--		--	
1984	2		--		2	0	--		--		--		--		--		--	
1985	0		--		--		--		--		--		--		--		--	
1986	3		--		1	0	1	0	--		--		--		1	0	--	
TOTALS	18		1	1	7	0	3	0	2	0	1	0	----		2	0	1	0

SUICIDE BY REGION - KEEWATIN
IN THE N.W.T. 1976 - 1986

YEAR	NUMBER OF SUICIDES	AGE	0 - 15		16 - 20		21 - 25		26 - 30		31 - 35		36 - 40		41 - 50		51 --->	
		SEX	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1976	0		--		--		--		--		--		--		--		--	
1976	1		1	0	--		--		--		--		--		--		--	
1977	2		--		--		2	0	--		--		--		--		--	
1978	4		1	0	--		1	0	--		--		--		--		2	0
1979	0		--		--		--		--		--		--		--		--	
1980	3		--		1	0	1	0	1	0	--		--		--		--	
1981	0		--		--		--		--		--		--		--		--	
1982	0		--		--		--		--		--		--		--		--	
1983	4		--		1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	--		--		--	
1984	1		--		--		1	0	--		--		--		--		--	
1985	1		--		--		--		1	0	--		--		--		--	
1986	2		--		--		--		--		--		1	0	--		1	0
TOTALS	18		2	0	2	0	6	0	3	0	1	0	1	0	----		3	0

CONCLUSION

This retrospective look on suicide in the N.W.T. has illustrated many areas of concern. Some of these areas stand out more than others. Among those that stand out are:

1. That the 16 to 30 year age group make up 66% of all suicides in the N.W.T. during the time of the study.

2. That the most commonly used methods of suicide were by use of firearms and hanging, which made up 86% of all suicides.

3. That suicide is a predominantly male problem.

4. That 53% of those who committed suicides were Inuit.

Other statistics revealed that the N.W.T. has a high rate of suicide in comparison with the national rate.

The report provides areas by region and community where attention has to be focussed for our heath promotion activities and this better be done soon so that we do not lose precious lives in their prime. The process of community depression when groups of ethnic and other people lose their self-identity have been well documented.

We have a problem of alcoholism, drug abuse and perhaps poor mental health facing all population in rapid transition from the living off the land to use of modern day technology. We may have an epidemic on our hands in the future, if we do not take care and tackle the problem now.

These results provide evidence that suicide is an issue that requires attention in the N.W.T.

Note:

There are 56 death certificates where the cause of death could not be determined. These certificates have been taken to the Office of the Coroner so that the cause of death can be found from the autopsy reports. These 56 death certificates may affect the statistics of this study.

The breakdown of suicides by community is available in the Department of Health, Epidemiology Unit. This data will not be provided unless approved by the Department of Health.

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COMMUNITY BREAKDOWN OF SUICIDES

IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

1975 TO 1986

PREPARED BY : DAVID WESTCOTT, SHARON FREITAG, AND LUIS BARRETO

DATE : AUGUST 1987

SUICIDE BY COMMUNITY

Fort Smith Region

The Fort Smith Region had the lowest rate of suicide with 18.7/100,000 in the N.W.T.

Yellowknife, which has the largest population in the N.W.T. at 9,403 in 1981, had the most suicides between 1975 and 1986 with 18. Although this appears to be a high number of suicides compared to other communities throughout the N.W.T., the rate per 100,000 is 15.8, which is close to the national average of 15/100,000.

A major area for concern in this region appears to be Hay River. Hay River had a total of 12 suicides, or an average of one per year during the time of the study. The rate of suicide for Hay River would then be 34.91/100,000 which is over twice the national average.

The two communities of Yellowknife and Hay River make up 30 of the 50 suicides recorded for the period 1975 to 1986. (They also make up half the regional population).

Fort Resolution had a high number of suicides. With such a small population (480 in 1981) and 5 suicides in the years of the study, this gives Fort Resolution a rate of 87.5/100,000, which is nearly six times the national average.

Fort Smith, Fort Simpson, Pine Point and Rae each had at least two suicides and no more than three in this time period. Of these, Fort Smith and Pine Point are at or below the national rate of suicide. Fort Simpson and Rae, however, are approximately ten suicides over the national average.

Of the remaining 12 communities, five had suicides recorded and seven had no suicides from 1975 to 1986.

The majority of these suicide victims were between the ages of 16 and 30. This group made up a total of 32 of the 50 suicides that occurred in this region during this study.

Inuvik Region

There was a total of 23 suicides from 1975 to 1986 in the Inuvik Region. Surprisingly, Tuktoyaktuk, with a population of 772, had the highest number of suicides with 9. The community with the second highest number of suicides was Fort McPherson with six. Fort McPherson also had a small average population of about 632. The rates per 100,000 for Tuktoyaktuk and Fort McPherson would be 97.2 and 79.1 respectively. Though these rates are perhaps unbelievably high, they are a good indicator as to the severe problem in these communities.

The regional centre, Inuvik, had the third highest number of suicides with five. With a population at least three times larger than any other community in this region, one would expect Inuvik to have the highest number of suicides, yet it does not.

Fort Franklin, Norman Wells and Sachs Harbour make up the remaining suicides as each had one in this 12 year period. The other six communities in this region did not report any suicides.

The rate for the region is 25.7 (the second lowest of all the regions).

Kitikmeot Region

The Kitikmeot Region had a total of 17 suicides from 1975 to 1986 inclusive. Of the five regions, Kitikmeot has the lowest total number of suicides, yet it has the highest rate of suicide at 43.2/100,000. This is due to a small population (in 1981 it was 3,285).

Coppermine, a community with a population of only 809 in 1981, had 11 suicides from 1975 to 1986. The average suicide rate for Coppermine alone is 113.7/100,000. This is approximately 7-1/2 times the national average.

Cambridge Bay and Holman Island had two suicides, while Pelly Bay and Spence Bay had one suicide reported in this time period. The other four communities, Bathurst Inlet, Bay Chimo, Gjoa Haven and Thom Bay, did not report any suicides in the time of the study.

Keewatin Region

In the Keewatin Region, there was a total of 18 suicides from 1975 to 1986. The regional centre, Rankin Inlet, compiled ten suicides during this 12 year period. Eskimo Point, which had about the same population as Rankin Inlet, had no suicides during this time period. The rest of the communities recorded either one or two suicides each between 1975 and 1986. Considering that Coral Harbour, Chesterfield Inlet, Repulse Bay and Whale Cove do not have populations greater than 500, two suicides in one of these communities results in a high rate. This is also true for the region as a whole, as the regional population averaged about 4,500 in this 12 year period, and there were 18 suicides reported. This averages out to 1.5 suicides per year or 33.3 suicides per 100,000, which is approximately double the national average of 15.1.

Baffin Region

From 1975 to 1986, there were a total of 34 suicides in the Baffin Region. Iqaluit (Frobisher Bay), the regional centre, had a total of 14 suicides during that 12 year period. With just about one-third of the regional population, this relatively high incidence of suicide is expected. The rate of suicide for Iqaluit alone would then be 54.5/100,000, which is over three times the national average.

Cape Dorset, which only had a population of 784 in 1981, had seven suicides in the study period. The rate per 100,000 for Cape Dorset would then be 74.3 from 1975 to 1986. This rate is nearly five times the national rate of Canada.

Broughton Island and Hall Beach each had three suicides in the study's time period. Arctic Bay and Pangnirtung each recorded two suicides. Igloolik, Pond Inlet and Resolute Bay each had one suicide. Clyde River, Grise Fiord and Lake Harbour were suicide free.

In the Baffin Region, the majority of suicides occurred among 16 to 20 year olds, who committed 16 of the 34 suicides.

COMMUNITY SUICIDES - KEEWATIN REGION
IN THE N.W.T. 1979 - 1986

REGION: KEEWATIN	TOTAL NO. OF SUICIDES	AGE 0 - 10		11 - 15		16 - 20		21 - 25		26 - 30		31 - 35		36 - 40		41 - 50		51 - 60		61 - 70		71 -->	
		SEX M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
BAKER INLET	10		—	2	0	1	0	4	0	2	0	—		—		—		1	0	—		—	
BAKER LAKE	2		—		—	1	0	—		—		—		—		—		1	0	—		—	
CHESTERFIELD INLET	1		—		—		—		—		—		—	1	0	—			—		—		—
CORAL HARBOUR	1		—		—		—		—	1	0	—		—		—			—		—		—
ESKIMO POINT	0		—		—		—		—		—		—		—	—			—		—		—
REPULSE BAY	2		—		—		—	2	0	—		—		—		—			—		—		—
WHALE COVE	2		—		—		—		—		—	1	0	—		—			—	1	0		—
TOTALS	18		—	2	0	2	0	6	0	3	0	1	0	1	0	—		2	0	1	0	—	

COMMUNITY SUICIDES - BAFFIN REGION
IN THE N.W.T. 1979 - 1986

REGION: BAFFIN	TOTAL NO. OF SUICIDES 1979 TO 1986	AGE 0 - 10		11 - 15		16 - 20		21 - 25		26 - 30		31 - 35		36 - 40		41 - 50		51 - 60		61 - 70		71 -->	
		SEX M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
IQUALUIT (FROBISHER BAY)	14		—		—	4	3	3	0	2	0	—		—		1	1	—		—		—	
ARCTIC BAY	2		—		—	1	0	1	0	—		—		—		—		—		—		—	
BROUGHTON ISLAND	3		—		—	2	1	—		—		—		—		—		—		—		—	
CAPE DORSET	7		—		—	3	1	3	0	—		—		—		—		—		—		—	
CLYDE RIVER	0		—		—	—		—		—		—		—		—		—		—		—	
GRISE FIORD	0		—		—	—		—		—		—		—		—		—		—		—	
HALL BEACH	3		—		—	—		0	1	—		2	0	—		—		—		—		—	
IGLOOLIK	1		—		—	—		—		—		1	0	—		—		—		—		—	
LAKE HARBOUR	0		—		—	—		—		—		—		—		—		—		—		—	
PANGNIRTUNG	2		—		—	1	0	—		—		—		—		1	0	—		—		—	
POND INLET	1		—		—	—		—		—		1	0	—		—		—		—		—	
RESOLUTE BAY	1		—		—	—		0	1	—		—		—		—		—		—		—	
TOTALS	34		—		—	11	5	7	1	2	0	4	0	—		2	1	—		—		—	

COMMUNITY SUICIDES - FORT SMITH REGION
IN THE N.W.T. 1978 - 1988

REGION: FORT SMITH	TOTAL NO. OF SUICIDES	AGE 0 - 10 SEX M	F	11 - 15 M	F	16 - 20 M	F	21 - 25 M	F	26 - 30 M	F	31 - 35 M	F	36 - 40 M	F	41 - 50 M	F	51 - 60 M	F	61 - 70 M	F	71 —> M	F
FORT SMITH	2		—		—	1	0	—		1	0	—		—		—		—		—		—	
HAY	1		—		—		—		—	1	0	—		—		—		—		—		—	
FORT LIARD	1		—		—	1	0	—		—		—		—		—		—		—		—	
FORT RESOLUTION	8		—		—	2	0	3	0	—		—		—		—		—		—		—	
FORT SIMPSON	3		—		—	1	0	2	0	—		—		—		—		—		—		—	
HAY RIVER	12		—	1	0	2	0	0	1	3	0	—		1	0	1	0	2	0	—		1	0
JEAN MARIE RIVER	1		—		—		—		—		—		—	1	0	—		—		—		—	
LAC LA MARTE	1		—		—		—		—	1	0	—		—		—		—		—		—	
PINE POINT	3		—		—		—	2	0	—		—		—		1	0	—		—		—	
RAE	2		—		—		—		—	1	0	—		1	0	—		—		—		—	
SNOWDRIFT	1		—		—		—		—		—	0	1	—		—		—		—		—	
YELLOWKNIFE	18	1	0	—		2	1	4	1	2	0	2	0	1	0	4	1	1	0	—.		—	
TOTALS	80	1	0	1	0	9	1	11	2	9	0	2	1	4	0	6	1	3	0	—		1	0

* THESE COMMUNITIES HAD NO SUICIDES DURING THIS TIME PERIOD :
ENTERPRISE, FORT PROVIDENCE, HAHANNI BUTTE, SNARE LAKE, TROUT LAKE,
Tungsten, Wrigley.

COMMUNITY SUICIDES - KITIKMEOT REGION
IN THE N.W.T. 1978 - 1986

REGION: KITIKMEOT	TOTAL NO. OF SUICIDES	AGE 0 - 10		11 - 15		16 - 20		21 - 25		26 - 30		31 - 35		36 - 40		41 - 50		51 - 60		61 - 70		71 —>	
		SEX	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
COPPERMINE BAY	2		—		1	0	—		—		—		—		—		—		1	0	—		—	
BATHURST INLET	0		—		—		—		—		—		—		—		—		—		—		—	
BAY CHIMO	0		—		—		—		—		—		—		—		—		—		—		—	
COPPERMINE	11		—		—		3	0	3	0	2	0	—		—		1	0	—		—		—	
GJOA HAVEN	0		—		—		—		—		—		—		—		—		—		—		—	
HOLMAN ISLAND	2		—		—		1	0	—		—		1	0	—		—		—		—		—	
PELLY BAY	1		—		—		—		—		—		—		—		1	0	—		—		—	
SPENCE BAY	1		—		1	0	—		—		—		—		—		—		—		—		—	
TAVANI BAY	0		—		—		—		—		—		—		—		—		—		—		—	
TOTALS	17		—		2	0	4	0	3	0	2	0	1	0	—		2	0	1	0	—		—	

COMMUNITY SUICIDES - INUVIK REGION
IN THE N.W.T. 1978 - 1986

REGION: INUVIK	TOTAL NO. OF SUICIDES	AGE 0 - 10		11 - 15		16 - 20		21 - 25		26 - 30		31 - 35		36 - 40		41 - 50		51 - 60		61 - 70		71 —>	
		SEX	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
INUVIK	8		—		—		1	0	3	0	—		1	0	0	1	—		—		—		—	
AKLAVIK	0		—		—		—		—		—		—		—		—		—		—		—	
ARCTIC RED RIVER	0		—		—		—		—		—		—		—		—		—		—		—	
COLVILLE	0		—		—		—		—		—		—		—		—		—		—		—	
FORT FRANKLIN	1		—		—		1	0	—		—		—		—		—		—		—		—	
FORT GOOD HOPE	0		—		—		—		—		—		—		—		—		—		—		—	
FORT McPHERSON	6		—		—		3	0	—		—		2	0	—		—		—		1	0	—	
FORT NORMAN	0		—		—		—		—		—		—		—		—		—		—		—	
NORMAN WELLS	1		—		—		—		—		1	0	—		—		—		—		—		—	
PAULATUK	0		—		—		—		—		—		—		—		—		—		—		—	
SACHS HARBOUR	1		—		—		—		0	1	—		—		—		—		—		—		—	
TUKTOYAKTUK	9		—		1	0	2	0	2	0	1	0	—		1	0	0	1	1	0	—		—	
TOTALS	23		—		1	0	7	0	6	1	2	0	3	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	—	